

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

An Apparatus ~~apparatus~~ and method for predicting failure in a system, ~~comprises: is~~ provided having a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of the system, and a comparator for comparing obtained measurements of the disorder indicator with a predetermined statistical description of the disorder indicator. The comparison is used to determine whether a deviation is present between presently measured values of the disorder indicator and the statistical description. The apparatus issues a failure prediction upon determination of the presence of such a deviation. The apparatus is able to use routine monitoring of the system and relies on its own statistical analysis of the behavior of the disorder indicator, to provide fault prediction which is non-specific to the type of fault. ~~Thus no detailed knowledge of the system being monitored is required, and furthermore the apparatus is applicable to systems irrespectively of the system complexity.~~